

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-5 (withdrawn)

Claim 6 (Currently amended) A mandrel for forming a hose, the mandrel being characterized by a pair of opposing legs having free ends configured for receipt within an end of a hose to shape the end from an original external geometrical configuration into an altered external geometrical configuration, and wherein at least one of the mandrel legs has a curved portion.

Claim 7 (original) A mandrel in accordance with claim 6 wherein both legs have a curved portion.

Claim 8 (Currently amended) A mandrel in accordance with claim 6 wherein the mandrel is further comprised of a hollow tube located between the free ends of the opposing legs.

Claim 9 (original) A mandrel in accordance with claim 6 wherein the mandrel is further comprised of a base rod onto which the opposing legs are secured and at least one of the legs is threaded onto the base rod.

Claim 10 (original) A mandrel in accordance with claim 9 wherein both legs are threaded onto the base rod.

Claim 11. (New) A mandrel in accordance with claim 6 wherein the free ends of opposing legs are configured for receipt within opposite respective ends of a hose.

Claim 12 (New) A mandrel for forming a hose, the mandrel being characterized by a pair of opposing hose-shaping legs having free ends configured for receipt within an end of a hose, and further comprised of a connective member connecting ends of the opposing legs and including adjustment means for altering the position of at least one opposing leg relative to the opposite opposing leg.

Claim 13 (New) A mandrel according to claim 12, wherein at least one opposing leg has a curved portion.

Claim 14 (New) A mandrel according to claim 13, wherein both legs have a curved portion.

Claim 15 (New) A mandrel according to claim 12, wherein the connective member comprises an elongate bar extending between the ends of the opposing legs.

Claim 16 (New) A mandrel according to claim 12, wherein the adjustment means comprises a threaded connection between at least one opposing leg and the connective member.

Claim 17 (New) A mandrel according to claim 16, wherein a threaded connection attaches both legs to the connective member.

Claim 18 (New) A mandrel for forming a hose, the mandrel being characterized by a pair of opposing legs having free ends configured for receipt within an end of a hose to alter the external shape of the hose into conformance with the leg and wherein at least one of the mandrel legs has a curved portion.